

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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EB-07 OMB-01 AGR-10 TRSE-00 COME-00 CIEP-02 SAJ-01

CEA-01 /093 W

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R 101742Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8297

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 2264

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PFOR, ES, CU, HO

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESIDENT MOLINA'S JUNE 3 PRESS CONFERENCE

1. PRESIDENT MOLINA HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE CASA PRESIDENCIAL JUNE 3. CABINET MINISTERS WERE PRESENT AND WERE ASKED BY MOLINA TO EXPAND ON CERTAIN OF HIS REPLIES. BASED ON FRAGMENTARY AND SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE FOLLOWING REMARKS ARE NOTEWORTHY:

A. HONDURAS: MOLINA INTERPRETED THE RECENT GOH DECISION TO ALLOW DULY DOCUMENTED SALVADORANS TO ENTER HONDURAS AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS TOWARD REACHING A SETTLEMENT WITH HONDURAS. FONMIN BORGONOVO SAID HE AND HONDURAN FON MIN GALVEZ HAD DECIDED IN WASHINGTON TO RESUME OFFICIAL NEGOTIATIONS BUT FIXED NO DATE FOR THE TALKS. MOLINA SEEMED ENCOURAGED BY REPORTS OF INCREASED TRADE ACROSS THE BORDER AND BY RECENT MEETINGS BETWEEN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. BOTH HE AND BORGONOVO DEFENDED

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PRESIDENTIAL MEETINGS AS NECESSARY TO THE PROCESS OF BUILDING

GOOD WILL. BORGONOVO NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT NO AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED AT THE PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL UNTIL OTHERS WERE MADE WA LOWER LEVELS. OVER-ALL, THEY SAW "SLOW BUT SURE" PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT.

B. CUBA SANCTIONS: MOLINA SAID THE GOES HAD NOT YET DECIDED HOW IT WILL VOTE ON THE CUBA SANCTIONS ISSUE AT THE UPCOMING OAS MEETING IN SAN JOSE.

C. "AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATION": MOLINA DESCRIBED "AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATION", AS A PROCESS OF PEACEFUL, ORDERLY CHANGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS AND INTENDED TO CREATE CONDITIONS WHICH WILL PERMIT INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE "AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATION" BILL IS NOW IN ITS FINAL DRAFTING BY A GROUP OF TECHNICIANS, ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT.

D. CHARGES OF COERCION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES: MOLINA DENIED A CHARGE MADE BY THE ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (AGEPYM) THAT THE PCN WAS COERCING ALL PUBLIC EMPLOYEES INTO CONTRIBUTING TO THE PARTY COFFERS. MOLINA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PARTY HAD APPEALED TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES TO CONTRIBUTE BUT ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS. (N.B. AGEPYM REJECTED THE PRESIDENT'S EXPLANATION IN A STATEMENT ISSUED AFTER THE PRESS CONFERENCE. THE UNION OF WORKERS OF ANDA, THE WATER AND SEWER ADMINISTRATION, HAS MADE SIMILAR CHARGES IN RECENT WEEKS.)

E. MORALES EHRLICH: MOLINA REJECTED CHARGES MADE BY THE PDC MAYOR OF SAN SALVADOR, JOSE ANTONIO MORALES EHRLICH, THAT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAS TRIED TO OBSTRUCT THE WORK OF THE MUNICIPALITY. MOLINA RETORTED THAT THE MAYOR'S PROBLEMS STEMMED FROM ADMINISTRATIVE INCOMPETENCE. N.B. MORALES EHRLICH HAS BEEN SPARRING WITH THE PCN OVER THE ISSUES OF THE NEW CENTRAL MARKET BUILT BY THE MUNICIPALITY AND HIS REQUEST THAT THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY REVISE THE CITY'S TAX RATES.)
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